

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DLOS-06 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2735

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, CA

SUBJECT: MEETING OF SHARP WITH SECRETARY

REF: OTTAWA 441

1. EXTAFF WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS DIRGEN NUTT, DURING FEB 13 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE (SEE REFTEL) ABOUT EXTAFFMIN SHARP'S TALK WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON ON FEB 10, SAID THAT SHARP HAD RAISED WEST COAST TANKER TRAFFIC MATTER DURING MEETING SINCE GOC CONTINUES TO CONSIDER THIS OF TOP PRIORITY IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. NUTT CITED TAPS ACT CLAUSES WHICH CALL FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ON SUCH MATTERS OF INTEREST TO IT. HE SAID GOC WAS VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN PULLING TOGETHER ALL OF DIFFERENT PROBLEMS RELATED TO TANKER TRAFFIC OFF THE WEST COAST TO PROTECT CANADA'S SHORELINE FROM POTENTIAL OIL SPILLS. NUTT MENTIONED OIL SPILL PLAN, PROPOSED PUGET SOUND NAVIGATION SCHEMES, JOINT RESEARCH, AND LEGAL LIABILITY QUESTION AS MATTERS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. HE AGREED THAT THESE ARE NOT NEW SUBJECTS AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN NARROWER CONTEXTS ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, SINCE TAPS LEGISLATION NOW APPROVED, CONSIDERABLY MORE URGENCY EXISTS FOR THE GOVERNMENTS TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO OVER-ALL PROBLEM.

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2.COMMENT: I RECALL THAT AT TIME OF TRAIN-DAVIS MEETING IN JULY 1972 THE CANADIANS RAISED BUT DID NOT PRESS A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON WEST COAST WATERS SIMILAR TO THE GREAT LAKES WATER QUALITY AGREEMENT. THEY ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION PLAY A ROLE IN ANY SUCH AGREEMENT. PERHAPS GOC IS ONCE AGAIN THINKING ALONG THOSE LINES. NUTT DID INDICATE THAT WITHIN ABOUT TEN DAYS THE NOTE MENTIONED IN SHARP'S LETTER, HANDED TO THE SECRETARY ON FEB 10, WOULD BE DELIVERED TO DEPT. MAKING SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. I THINK THAT IF WE CAN MOVE SMARTLY ENOUGH WITH OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN TO SECURE REMAINING IRISH PENNANTS, AGREEMENT COULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE SECRETARY'S REPORTED VISIT TO OTTAWA IN MARCH AND COULD BE HIGHLY SUITABLE INSTRUMENT FOR HIM TO SIGN AT THAT TIME WITH SHARP. PERHAPS TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEM OR OTHER NAVIGATION ACCORD MIGHT ALSO BE READY AT THAT TIME FOR TWO TO ENDORSE. SUCH FORMAL AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED UNDER THOSE AUSPICES WOULD REPRESENT POLITICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR SHARP IN EYES LIBERALS' WESTERN (EVEN NATIONAL) CONSTITUENCY AND USEFUL CREDIT FOR SECRETARY IN HAVING BEEN SO RESPONSIVE TO SHARP SO QUICKLY.

JOHNSON

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